

**R. ANDREW CHESNUT**  
**BISHOP WALTER SULLIVAN ENDOWED CHAIR OF CATHOLIC STUDIES**

Virginia Commonwealth University  
School of World Studies  
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**EDUCATION**

- 1995    Ph.D., History (Latin America)  
          University of California, Los Angeles
- 1989    M.A., Latin American Studies  
          University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 1986    B.A., International Studies and History, cum laude  
          Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

**DISSERTATION**

"Assembly of the Anointed: Pentecostalism and the Pathogens of Poverty in an Amazonian City of Brazil, 1962-1993"

Dissertation Committee: E. Bradford Burns (Chair), James Lockhart, Jeffrey Frieden

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

- 2007 Competitive Spirits: Latin America's New Religious Economy (*Oxford University Press*), paperback edition
- 2003 Competitive Spirits: Latin America's New Religious Economy (*Oxford University Press*), book on the development of religious pluralism in Latin America, hardcover edition
- 1997 Born Again in Brazil: The Pentecostal Boom and the Pathogens of Poverty (*Rutgers University Press*), book on the Pentecostal boom in Brazil, hardcover and paperback

**Articles and Book Chapters**

- 2008 "Marketing the Gospel: Latin America's New Religious Economy," chapter in edited volume "Spirit and Power: The Global Impact of Pentecostalism," forthcoming 2008, *University of California Press*.

“The Pentecostalization of Latin American Christianity,” chapter in edited volume “Religion and Society in Latin America: Interpretive Essays from the Conquest to the Present,” forthcoming 2008, *Orbis Press*.

2007 “Specialized Spirits: Conversion and the Products of Pneumacentric Religions in Latin America’s Free Market of Faith,” chapter in Conversion of a Continent: Contemporary Religious Change in Latin America, *Rutgers University Press*.

2006 “Brazil,” Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion, *CQ Press*

2005 “Witches, Wailers and Welfare: The Religious Economy of Funerary Culture and Witchcraft in Latin America,” *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 40:3

“A Historical Perspective on the Religious Economy of Tzintzuntzan, Mexico,” *Journal of Latin American Anthropology* April 2005, Vol. 10

2003 "A Preferential Option for the Spirit: The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Latin America's New Religious Economy," *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol. 45:1, spring.

"Pragmatic Consumers and Practical Products: The Success of Pneumacentric Religion Among Women in Latin America's New Religious Economy," *Review of Religious Research*, Vol. 45:1, pp. 20-31.

2000 “Born Again in Brazil: Spiritual Ecstasy and Mutual Aid,” chapter in Virginia Garrard Burnett’s On Earth as It Is in Heaven: Religion in Latin America, Scholarly Resources, Jaguar Series on Latin America.

1999 “The Salvation Army or the Army’s Salvation?: Pentecostal Politics in Amazonian Brazil, 1962-1992,” in *Luso-Brazilian Review*, fall.

### **Book Reviews**

2008 Reason to Believe: Cultural Agency in Latin American Evangelicalism, forthcoming, *Contemporary Sociology*.

2005 From Fanatics To Folk: Brazilian Millenarianism and Popular Culture, *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 110, No. 2

2004 The Sacred and the Sovereign in *International Studies Review*, June.

2002 Secret Dialogues: Church-State Relations, Torture, and Social Justice in Authoritarian Brazil, in H-LATAM, January.

2001 Living in the New Jerusalem: Protestantism in Guatemala, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, winter

The Church at the Grassroots in Latin America, *Luso-Brazilian Review*, summer.

1999 Women, Religion, and Social Change in Brazil's Popular Church, *The Journal of Church and State*, fall.

1998 Promised Land: Base Christian Communities and the Struggle for the Amazon, *Luso-Brazilian Review*, fall.

## PRESENTATIONS

2007 Featured speaker at workshop on religion in Latin America, Yale Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies, Yale University, 4/21/07. Gave talk entitled "Latin America's New Religious Landscape"

2006 Invited commentator for panel entitled "Religion, Media and Globalization - the evangelical media in Brazil and USA as part of conference "Transnational Religion in Contemporary Latin America and the United States," Latin American Studies Institute, University of Texas, 1/26-27/06

Gave talk entitled "Entrepreneurial Spirits: African Diasporan Religion in Latin America," as part of panel on religion in Latin America, Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, PR, 3/15-3/18/06

Featured speaker at USC conference "Spirit in the Word, An International Symposium on the Dynamics of Pentecostal Growth and Experience." Gave talk entitled "Competitive Spirits: Latin America's New Religious Economy," 10/5-10/7/06

Gave talk entitled "Spirited Sisters: The Success of Charismatic Religion among Latin American Women," as part of panel on Religion in Latin America, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland OR, 10/19-10/21/06

2005 Featured speaker at University of Texas conference "Is God Brazilian? Christianity and New Religious Movements." Gave talk entitled "Spirited Sisters: The Success of Pneumacentric Religion among Brazilian Women," 2/17-2/18/05

Featured speaker at Notre Dame University conference, "Contemporary Catholicism, Religious Pluralism, and Democracy in Latin America: Challenges, Responses, and Impact." Gave talk entitled "Opting for the Spirit in Latin America: The Catholic Charismatic Renewal as a Response to Pentecostal Competition," 3/30-4/1/05

Featured speaker at Wayne State University conference "Religion in the Americas." Gave a talk entitled "Competitive Spirits: Latin America's New Religious Marketplace," 4/22/05

Featured speaker at Ohio State University symposium entitled "Fundamentalism and the Media: Wars on Culture – Struggles in Culture – Conflicts between Cultures." Gave a talk entitled "Faith in Marketing: Pentecostal Prosperity in Latin America's New Religious Economy," 5/2/05

**R. Andrew Chesnut**

Interviewed on *National Public Radio*, Santa Fe, about religion in Latin America and Pope Benedict, 4/14/05

2004 “Entrepreneurial Spirits: Religions of the African Diaspora,” paper presented as chair of Presidential Panel on religious competition and conversion in Latin America, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion conference in Kansas City

"Espiritus Competitivos: O Novo Mercado Religioso do Brasil e da America Latina," paper presented in Portuguese as chair of the religion section at Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA) conference in Rio de Janeiro

2003 “Spirited Competition: Latin America's New Religious Marketplace,” paper presented as invited panelist at SSSR/RRA conference in Norfolk, VA.

2002 "Cornering Brazil's Religious Market: An Anatomy of Pentecostal Success," paper presented at BRASA (Brazilian Studies Association) Congress in Atlanta.

"Competitive Spirits: Latin America's New Free Market Religious Economy," paper presented at Religious Research Association conference in Salt Lake City.

2001 “Competitive Spirits: Prospering in Latin America's New Religious Economy,” paper presented at LASA 2001 in Washington, DC.

"Approaches to the History of Protestantism in Latin America," served as invited discussant on panel at LASA 2001 in Washington, DC.

"Competitive Spirits: Prospering in Latin America's New Religious Economy," paper presented in Spanish at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Socioreligious Studies, Havana, Cuba.

2000 “A Preferential Option for the Spirit: The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Latin America’s New Religious Economy,” paper presented at LASA 2000 (Latin American Studies Association) in Miami.

Organized and chaired the Religion and Society subgroup of BRASA (Brazilian Studies Association) 2000 in Recife, Brazil.

"The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Brazil's New Religious Economy," paper presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Social Science Association of Religious Studies in Latin America, Buenos Aires

1999 “Brazil’s Free Market in Faith,” paper presented as member of panel on religion and popular movements in Latin America at SLAS 99, Cambridge, England.

1998 “The Spirit of Brazil: The Rise of Charismatic Christianity in the Largest Catholic Nation,” paper presented as chair of panel entitled “Brazil’s New Religious Marketplace” at LASA 98 in Chicago.

“Pentecostalize or Perish? The Rise of Charismatic Christianity in Brazil,” paper presented as invited guest speaker at the Brazil Center’s “Brazilian Week,” University of Texas.

1997 “Brazil’s New Religious Marketplace,” paper presented as member of panel entitled “Social and Psychological Dynamics of the Religious Marketplace in Brazil” at the Brazilian Studies Association Fourth Congress, Washington, D.C.

“The Pentecostal Boom in Latin America,” lecture given as invited speaker at UCLA Extension’s Spring 1997 lecture series, “Tension Areas in the World Today.”

1995 "Exorcising the Demons of Poverty: Pentecostal Faith Healing and Conversion in an Amazonian City of Brazil," paper presented as chair of panel "Opium of the People or Liberation?" at LASA 95 Congress, Washington, D.C.

“Salvation Army or the Army's Salvation?: Pentecostal Politics in Brazilian Amazonia during the Military Dictatorship," paper presented as invited panelist on religion and politics at conference entitled "Constructing a Democratic Culture in Brazil," sponsored by UCLA Program on Brazil.

"Supernatural Surgery: Pentecostal Faith Healing in Brazil," paper delivered as member of panel on religion at 1995 BRASA Conference, University of Minnesota.

"The Pentecostal Boom in Brazil: Exorcising the Demons of Poverty," keynote paper presented as member of panel on Pentecostalism sponsored by UCLA Program on Brazil.

1994 "The Power of Healing: Pentecostalism and Poverty in an Amazonian City," keynote paper presented in Portuguese at the Seminar on Pentecostalism at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), 8/94.

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

2005 Faculty Small Grant, University of Houston, for current book project

1999 Research Initiation Grant, University of Houston, for book project

Special Merit, UH, for critical success of book, Born Again in Brazil

1998 Limited Grant in Aid, University of Houston, for archival research in Brazil

1994-95 UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship

1993-94 Fulbright Grant for dissertation research in Brazil

UCLA Latin American Center research grant

UCLA International Studies and Overseas Programs  
long term fieldwork grant

**R. Andrew Chesnut**

- 1992-93 National Resource (Title VI) Fellowship, Portuguese
- 1988-89 University of Wisconsin Alumni Fellowship, full support
- 1986 Kellogg Grant for research on Central American refugees
- 1982-86 National Presbyterian Scholarship

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2008- **Bishop Walter Sullivan Endowed Chair of Catholic Studies**, School of World Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University.
- 2005-08 **Professor**, Department of History, University of Houston. I teach both undergraduate and graduate courses on modern Latin American history. Currently teaching two upper division courses, *Religions of Modern Latin America* and *History of Brazil*
- 2002-04 **Associate Professor**, Department of History, University of Houston
- 1997-02 **Assistant Professor**, Department of History, University of Houston
- 1996-97 **Lecturer**, Department of History, UCLA. Taught the following courses: undergraduate seminar *Social History of Brazilian Amazonia*, graduate seminar *Brazilian National Identity*, undergraduate seminar *The Religions of Modern Latin America*; lecture class *Religion and Society in Modern Latin America*, and *U.S.-Latin American Relations*.
- 1994-95 **Dissertation Year Fellow**, Department of History, UCLA. Awarded departmental fellowship for dissertation write-up.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2007 Member of editorial board of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*
- Departmental member of Executive Committee
- Evaluated book proposal on US-Latin American relations for Blackwell Publishing
- Quoted in *The Economist* on papal visit to Brazil, 5/3/07
- Quoted in *Wall Street Journal* on papal visit to Brazil, 5/9/07
- Quoted in *Ottawa Citizen* on Pentecostalism in Latin America, 2/25/07
- Contributed expert commentary on papal visit to Brazil for PBS's *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*, 5/14/07

- 2006 Member of editorial board of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*
- Quoted extensively in *Houston Chronicle* article on Three Kings Day in Latin America, 1/6/06
- Departmental member of Executive Committee
- Quoted in *Philadelphia Inquirer* article on Catholicism in Latin America, 6/06
- Reviewed article manuscript, "Retail Religion? Contesting the Cooptation and Commodification of Candomblé in Salvador, Brazil." for *Radical History Review*, 3/06
- Evaluated NSF Proposal, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: God's Ambassadors: Youth Programs in the Baptist Churches of Brasilia", 3/06
- Reviewed book proposal "The Book of the Living and the Dead in Latin America" for *Rutgers University Press*, 10/06
- Served on Jon Tolman Essay Prize Committee for Brazilian Studies Association, spring
- 2005 Quoted extensively in *Financial Times* article on the new pope, 4/19/05
- Member of editorial board of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*
- Reviewed article manuscript on Protestantism in Dominican Republic for *Review of Religious Research*, 10/05
- Departmental member of Executive and Undergraduate committees
- 2004 Member of editorial board of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*
- Coordinator of religion section for Brazilian Studies Association conference in Rio de Janeiro, June
- Chair of presidential panel on Latin American religion for SSSR conference to be held in Kansas City, 10/04
- Doctoral adviser to three UH graduate students
- Departmental member of Undergraduate Committee
- Served as reader of book manuscript for Scholarly Resources Press.
- 2003 Served as reader of book manuscripts for Oxford and Notre Dame University presses
- Departmental member of Graduate and Undergraduate Committees

- 2002 Departmental member of Merit (elected position), Executive, Graduate, and Library Committees
- Reviewed manuscript on Protestant political action in Venezuela submitted for publication to *Latin American Politics and Society*
- Reviewed book manuscript on Brazilian history for Scholarly Resources Press
- 2001 Evaluated grant proposal on religion in Brazil for the Austrian Science Fund
- Reviewed manuscript on Pentecostalism in Latin America submitted for publication to *Latin American Research Review*
- Cited as expert on Brazilian Pentecostalism in feature article on Latino Pentecostalism in Los Angeles, *LA Weekly* (6/29).
- Departmental member of Executive, Undergraduate and Library Committees
- 1999-00 Departmental member of Executive and Undergraduate Committees and College member of Study Abroad Committee.
- Reviewed manuscript on Brazilian 20<sup>th</sup>-century history for publication by *Luso-Brazilian Review*.
- Reviewed manuscript on religion in Central America for publication by *Canadian Journal of Latin American Studies*.
- Reviewed manuscript on 19<sup>th</sup>-century Brazilian history submitted for publication to *Luso-Brazilian Review*
- Cited in *Folha de Sao Paulo* (5/99), the city's leading daily, as part of lengthy article on the new generation of anglophone Brazilianist scholars.
- 1997-98 Member of Undergraduate and Library Committees.
- Reviewed manuscript on Brazilian history for publication by *Canadian Journal of Latin American Studies*.
- Invited to write modern Latin American history text for Prentice Hall but declined.
- Chaired and organized panel entitled "Brazil's New Religious Marketplace" at LASA 98, Chicago.
- Quoted in *Houston Chronicle* (1/98) on papal visit to Cuba.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Since 2004 Editorial board member of *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*

Since 2001 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Since 1995 Brazilian Studies Association

Since 1994 American Historical Association and Latin American Studies Association

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

Fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, competent in French. Translation and interpretation experience in Spanish and Portuguese.

